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9 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

THROUGH : Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : [redacted] dated 7 December 1955, from Commander,  
Detachment "A" to Project Director; Subject:  
"Detachment 'A' Personnel"

1. In the subject memorandum, [redacted] makes a statement as follows:

"In view of the complexity and methods of operating the Detachment in the field, it is strongly recommended that the Deputy Commander space ... be occupied by an Air Force Officer."

With this statement I am forced to non-concur, even in spite of [redacted] amplification of the above, wherein the Administrative Support Officer is proposed as a second Deputy Commander.

2. As I understand it, the thinking about Phase III has been that CIA would retain operational control of Detachment activities. I do not think that an overseas Detachment can be completely successful unless a large degree of autonomy is granted it, not only in its day-to-day administration, but in the actual conduct of its operational missions. If both the Detachment C.O. and the Deputy are of the same cloth, be it CIA or Air Force, you do not obtain that counterbalance and relative objectivity that initially seemed desirable. I do not believe that the Administrative Support Officer should be expected to supply this counterbalance, as [redacted] proposes, for the simple reason that he is not skilled in operations, as his title implies.

3. I do agree with the principle of "Double Deputies," but not with the proposal as made by [redacted]. If, however, it is expedient to place significantly greater reliance upon Air Force management of ~~air~~ operations, then what [redacted] proposes has greater validity.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Director of Administration  
E. J. O'Connell PCS/DCI

JAC:mah

Orig - 100H 3 - Base "A" 5 - chrono ✓  
2 - OJH 4 - Base A C.O. 6 - reading